
HOUSE BILL 1781

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Eddy, Schindler and Springer

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the best available science requirement for
2 critical areas; and amending RCW 36.70A.172.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.172 and 1995 c 347 s 105 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) In designating and protecting critical areas under this
7 chapter, counties and cities shall include the best available science
8 in developing policies and development regulations to protect the
9 functions and values of critical areas. In addition, counties and
10 cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection
11 measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

12 (2) The requirement to include best available science under
13 subsection (1) of this section is satisfied if buffers in a critical
14 area ordinance are within the range of buffers previously adopted and
15 established by any local government based on best available science for
16 the same category or type of critical area.

17 (3) If it determines that advice from scientific or other experts
18 is necessary or will be of substantial assistance in reaching its

1 decision, a growth management hearings board may retain scientific or
2 other expert advice to assist in reviewing a petition under RCW
3 36.70A.290 that involves critical areas.

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